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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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25X1 SUBJECT Sokolovo Chemical Plant

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Sokolovo Chemical Plant in Sokolov (N51/P58) employs a total of about 1800 workers including office employees. Workers' morale is very low because of the low wages and the time consumed by political meetings and activities. The plant is surrounded by a wooden fence 2½ m high. Each employee must show a gray-green identity card showing his name, photograph and control number at the entrance gate. Leading personnel of the plant include the following:

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2. The plant produces carbide, potassium chlorate, hydrogen peroxide, formic acid and industrial gases. The hydrogen peroxide is used in the production of carbide, which is exported to the USSR. Carbide, which is the main item in the production plan of the plant, is manufactured from coke, nitrogenous calcium, hydrogen peroxide and potassium chlorate in six open furnaces. About 40 political prisoners work in this section. The carbide is stored in vessels about one meter high and one-half meter wide.
3. The formic acid department can produce about 50,000 tons of acid per year with rather out-moded equipment, which is in need of frequent repair. The entire production of formic acid is exported in straw-covered bottles to the USSR. Carbon monoxide gas is produced in six

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automatically fed generators, of which four are in operation and two in reserve. About 32 (sic) q of coke per twelve-hour shift are used in the four generators. The CO gas is passed through washing machines located behind each generator and into a gas tank about 600 cubic meters in volume. Unslaked lime is crushed in a drum-shaped crusher and is then mixed with water to produce lime water. About 42 (sic) q of lime is required each twelve-hour shift for the lime kiln. The CO gas and lime water are mixed in one of two autoclaves. From here the mixture is cleaned and pumped through evaporators (odparky) where it is again washed with water. Then it is compounded with sulphuric acid and pumped into distillation drums. From this apparatus a fine white sand refuse is removed at the rate of about 45 q per shift and is transported to a water-filled pit about one kilometer from the plant, where it is dumped. The formic acid is then pumped into bottles and stored in warehouses to await shipment.

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